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The Washington State Department of Health has implemented a new state-based reporting system for tracking dead birds. Please report dead bird sightings using the State Health reporting system through the internet at www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/zoo/wnv/wnv.html. This website also contains other West Nile Virus information that you may find useful.

The Kitsap County Health District is no longer taking dead bird reports at the local level in order to best utilize the State Health system. Please note that most dead birds are not collected for West Nile Virus testing. Dead birds may be disposed of by throwing the carcass into the garbage. Do not touch the bird with bare hands, use gloves, a shovel, or a plastic bag to pick the bird up.

The Kitsap County Health District reminds residents that West Nile Virus (WNV) has been detected in Washington State for the past several years, and recommends the following:

- Assume WNV is already here --- personal protection is key. Kitsap County does not have a mosquito control district and does not spray for mosquito control.
- Avoid mosquito bites by: avoiding areas with mosquitoes, and if that is not possible by using mosquito repellent and wearing long clothing that covers exposed skin. Avoiding the outdoors at the prime biting hours of dawn and dusk will also help.
- Eliminate mosquito breeding habitat (i.e., stagnant, standing water): empty/remove all materials outdoors that collect and hold water (clogged gutters, old tires, buckets, tarps, etc.); change bird bath or animal trough water at least once every 3 days; keep fountains and pools in clean and in good operating condition (i.e., pumps working so that water is moving and not stagnant).
- Stay --- or try to get into --- good health so that your immune system is strong.
- If a person experiences severe or prolonged flu-like symptoms, get checked out by a medical provider.

If you do not have internet access and would like to report a dead bird sighting, you may call the Health District at (360) 337-5285 for assistance.